VOLUME 31.3

Meadowlark

WINTER 2023

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Seasonal Highlights 20

Meadowlark

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we send out this "winter" issue, IOS is one step closer to being back on track with the Meadowlark seasonal publishing schedule. Although this issue features articles about the birds we expect during the colder winter months, we are seeing shorebird and passerine movement and early signs of fall migration. As I write this message, migrants abound across Illinois. My "Year Needs Alert" list for Illinois has grown so long that I have to scroll down to the next page to read them all. Clearly I need to go birding!

I am excited to introduce Bob Dolgan, the new Chief Editor of the IOS Meadowlark journal. This is Bob's first issue as the Chief Editor. Please help me welcome him to the organization! Many of you may already know Bob for his filmmaking that highlights birds, birding, and conservation efforts. Bob specializes in creating engaging and informative content with the goal of inspiring others and capturing the imagination. As the Chief Editor of the Meadowlark, Bob will bring this experience and excitement to the Meadowlark that we share with our members.

I hope you have enjoyed the three issues of the Meadowlark that arrived during the spring. These magazines were full of beautiful photographs documenting the birds from the seasons and showcasing the photography of the birders in our own community. Photo submissions and article suggestions are always welcomed for upcoming issues of the Meadowlark. Please email the Chief Editor at publications@illinoisbirds.org. Your ideas are always welcomed!

In this issue of the Meadowlark, you will find that Winter Field Notes are not included. Field Notes are an important part of the information the IOS collects and shares with the Illinois birding community, and we plan to continue this tradition. However, at the moment, we do not have a full slate of Field Notes Editors, and we do not want the Meadowlark to be perpetually behind schedule due to the Field Notes. Therefore, we are going to continue publishing the magazine on a schedule and we will publish Field Notes for all seasons in the future. However, you will find a new title, Seasonal Highlights, which recaps important sightings across the state during the season. The IOS has a task force of committed volunteers working together to build a long-term, sustainable plan for Field Notes. We will continue to share information with our members as we make progress towards our future goals for Field Notes and the Meadowlark.

I hope that you have had opportunities to get out birding in your favorite hot spots or that you've discovered a new favorite birding place somewhere in Illinois. May this continue to be a "birdy" year for us wherever we are birding!

Thanks and I look forward to seeing you in the field!

Sincerely,

Andrea Tolzmann
IOS President
ILYB Coordinator

ABOUT THE COVER:

Matt Zuro took this photo of a Common Redpoll at Springbrook Prairie FP on 16 Jan 2022.

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ABOVE: TOP LEFT: COMMON REDPOLL. DeKalb Co. Photo by Ken Reinert. LEFT: KING EIDER. Heidecke Lake. Grundy Co. Photo by Matt Misewicz. RIGHT: PAINTED BUNTING. McHenry Co. Photo by Randy Schietzelt.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

By Bob Dolgan

AMERICAN ROBIN. Burnham Park, Cook Co., 18 Feb 22. Photo by Xiaoni Xu.

One of my favorite things to do during the Christmas Bird Count is to look for robins. That's right, the humble American Robin, a bird of neighborhoods and our most urban of environments, and one often misunderstood to only be present in the warmer months. But thousands of robins winter right here in Illinois every year, and we find many of them during the annual count.

This issue of Meadowlark details the results of the dozens of Christmas Bird Counts–66 in all–that took place across the state two winters ago. Most counts require fanning out across woodlands, prairies, and wetlands to find birds. It's part wilderness expedition, part scavenger hunt. And usually there's a countdown dinner at the end of the day where stories are told and libations are had. It's a lot of fun, and one doesn't have to be an expert to enjoy the experience.

The count serves an important purpose, too, and gives us a better sense of the well-being of our avifauna. The North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) released a report in October 2022 showing that half of U.S. bird species are in decline. NABCI cited several data sources, including the results of local Christmas Bird Counts. By counting birds, we acknowledge them while we still have them. By counting them, we acknowledge that our world is better for their presence.

So what of the robins? The axiom that robins are a harbinger of spring is a bit misleading. Robins do seem to proliferate on lawns as the weather warms, making earthworms and grubs more available and their presence more visible. In the winter, they retreat to wooded areas and turn to a diet of berries. Some do indeed go farther south.

I hope you enjoy paging through the results of the counts. In helping compile this report with Jarod Hitchings, I'm astounded by our state's diverse physiographic regions. Illinois often has a bad rap when it comes to its natural landscape (the phrase "flyover country" comes to mind). But I'm not sure there's a more interesting state for the Christmas Bird Count. A place where you might find a Red-throated Loon near the Illinois-Wisconsin border or a Black Vulture in the Shawnee Hills. And astonishing numbers of waterfowl species from Snow Geese to Trumpeter Swans.

***

"This quarterly journal is published for you–whether you're an ornithologist, student, beginning birder, advanced birder, feeder watcher, or bird lover of any type."

The above words appeared in the first issue of Meadowlark in the Summer of 1992 and remain apt more than three decades later. As your new Chief Editor, my goal is to ensure that Meadowlark is a publication that is appealing to the range of audiences mentioned above. That means developing content that varies from the scientific to the educational and recreational aspects of birding. It means ensuring the integrity and accuracy of data and reports. It means coverage for all 102 counties in the state. And it means getting these issues to you in a timely fashion.

A quick word about timing. We are trying to catch up on back issues. However, there always will be at least a one-year lag when it comes to Meadowlark. That's because our content reflects data from one year prior. So the Winter 2023 issue features data from December 2021 through February 2022. The Spring 2023 issue, coming up next, will reflect data from March 2022 through May 2022. And so on.

Again, this quarter's issue highlights the winter of 2021-2022, with Dave Johnson's comprehensive look at Common Redpolls. It was quite a winter for these northern finches, one that many of us won't soon forget. I was standing in my nearest forest preserve that February, still missing the species for my year list, when a chatty bunch of 19 redpolls alighted in a nearby tree. Much to my pleasure, redpolls became a fixture at my thistle feeder the rest of that month.

I look forward to seeing how these pages evolve. This issue marks the introduction of a new column, Lark Notes, that will be the home for highlighting trends in birding as well as flashbacks to milestones in Illinois avifauna history. But Meadowlark's success still hinges on you as a subscriber and on the volunteer contributors who research topics, write stories, and develop graphics and tables. We welcome your input and suggestions as future issues roll out. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at the email address below. ■

Bob Dolgan
Chief Editor
IOS's Meadowlark magazine
publications@illinoisbirds.org

LARK NOTES

TECHNOLOGY

Rare bird alerts were largely the domain of landline telephones as recently as 25 years ago. Then came the emergence of listservs, eBird, and social media. Now platforms like GroupMe and Discord have quickly proliferated.

Discord has recently become the home for rare bird alerts, including statewide across Illinois and for several individual counties. Per its website, Discord is "a voice, video and text communication service used by over a hundred million people to hang out and talk with their friends and communities." It's available as a smartphone app via the App Store and Google Play. Discord also functions well on a computer browser, is searchable, and offers the editing and deletion of messages.

Matthew Cvetas, a past president of Illinois Ornithological Society, moderates the Illinois Rare Bird Alert Discord and others. After experimenting with GroupMe for a few years, Cvetas says that Discord has brought disparate communities onto a single platform. It's also grouped conversations into threads rather than long strings of back-and-forth conversations. Cvetas notes the platform provides "many more" controls for administrators, offers robust search functionality, and even group telephone conversations.

The goal has been to provide a rare bird alert with targeted information regarding sightings and locations. Separate chat threads have emerged on Discord for those looking for conversation as opposed to the latest and greatest sightings. Discord also has automatic tools built-in to thwart spammers and enables users to join by clicking a single, easy-to-find link.

The rise of Discord and GroupMe are more evidence that technology has transformed birding. With many of these new tools, the result is that people of all skill levels learn about sightings, see more species, and become further connected with our avifauna.

Access the Illinois birding Discord server by going to https://discord.gg/KuXjTduuIt. Contact Matthew Cvetas at mcvetas@comcast.net with questions.

FLASHBACK

1992

The winter of 1991-1992 featured the state's second-largest Snowy Owl invasion to date. The total of 46 owls was exceeded only by the winter of 1980-1981 when 59 owls were recorded.

1995

The Christmas Bird Count saw a new high for Northern Shrikes (54) as 147 species were tallied in all. Cold temperatures left 87 percent of the state's water frozen during the 1995-1996 count period.

2001

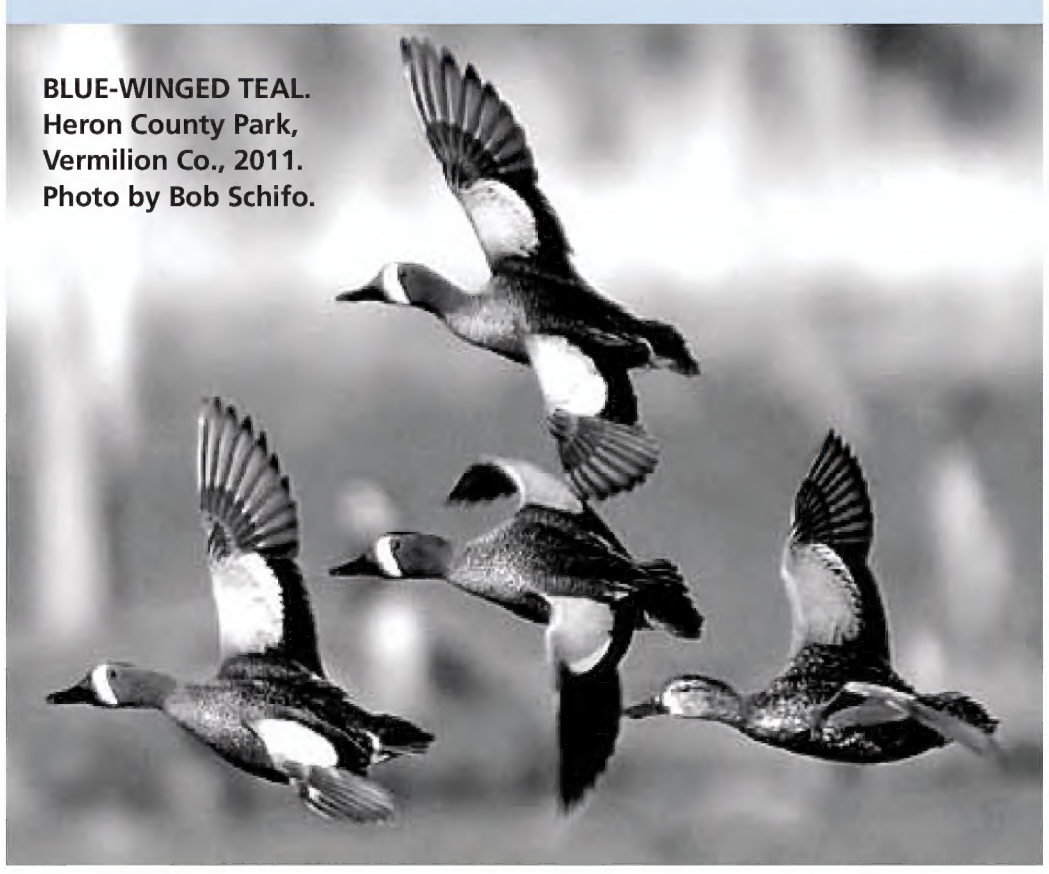
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher bred in Illinois for only the second time, in Union County. The species' first nest occurred in Randolph County the previous year.

2008

A record high of 13 gull species were observed in winter at Carlyle Lake, in the Clinton County portion of the lake. Notable sightings included Glaucous-winged, Mew, Sabine's, and Slaty-backed Gulls.

2012

Despite persistent drought, the Illinois River Valley saw a successful waterfowl season, including increases in American Black Duck, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, and Northern Shoveler abundance.



BLUE-WINGED TEAL. Heron County Park, Vermilion Co., 2011. Photo by Bob Schifo.

Photo by Ken Reinert

MAJOR IRRUPTION OF REDPOLLS DURING WINTER 2021-2022

By David B. Johnson

Bohlen (1989) notes the erratic occurrence of Common Redpoll (*Acanthis flammea*) in the state and its status as an uncommon migrant and winter resident with sometimes little or no occurrence in the state. However, a remarkable far-reaching Common Redpoll irruption occurred in Illinois during the winter of 2021-2022 with individuals noted throughout the state, even into southern Illinois. In context, this irruption was noted as widespread with large numbers of redpolls reported across the Great Lakes; flocks of 500 to 1,000 redpolls reported in several locations (Young 2022). Illinois was no exception. Redpolls were noted in 55 counties in Illinois during this major influx, more than half of Illinois' 102 counties (see Table 1).

High Counts

In Illinois, the largest flock of Common Redpolls reported was 420 at Mundsinger Woods on 31 Dec 2021, Kendall Co., noted by Ryan Jones and Jude Vickery. An all-time high Illinois Christmas Bird Count tally of 529 redpolls was noted on the Evanston North Shore Bird Count on 26 Dec 2021. As part of the Great Backyard Bird Count, Sheryl DeVore and Steve Bailey tallied a backyard total of 356 redpolls on 18 Feb 2022 in Mundelein, Lake Co. Birds were literally carpeting the ground of their residence. Douglas Stotz noted 355 redpolls on 31 Dec 2021 at the Des Plaines Conservation Area, Will Co. John Leonard of Glenview, Cook Co., tallied 330 redpolls outside his residence by taking a photo of all the birds in several trees, then counting all the "dots" in the photograph; by the same method, 317 redpolls were counted by Xiaoni Xu at Northwestern University in Evanston, Cook Co., on 17 Jan 2022; additionally 166 redpolls were seen in DeKalb Co. feeding on spilled corn next to a corn crib. Ken Reinert counted individuals from printed/sectioned photos. Several observers noted 300 redpolls at Hickory Grove FP on 2 Feb 2022 in McHenry Co. (Jeff Aufmann via eBird)

The following areas noted 95 or more redpolls during the winter season: McKinley Woods/Moose Island (200), Will Co.; North Point Marina (191), Lake Co.; Springbrook Prairie FP (180), DuPage Co.; DuPage River Park (176) DuPage Co.; Memorial Garden Cemetery (160), Cook Co.; Heidecke Lake SFWA (153), Grundy Co.; Lakewood FP (150), Lake Co.; Elburn FP (135) Kane Co.; St. Paul Woods (130), Cook Co.; Fossland/Novotny Park (122), Lake Co.; Chicago Botanic Garden (120), Glencoe, Cook Co.; Skokie Lagoons (120), Cook Co.; Lake Forest Beach (112), Lake Co.; Camp Pine Woods (110), Cook Co.; Mallinckrodt Park (110), Cook Co.; Palatine Bike Trail (108), Cook Co.; Forest Glen Woods (100), Cook Co.; Heritage Oak Park (100), Lake Co.; DuPage Technology Park (100); Mayslake FP (100), DuPage Co.; and Pine Dunes FP (95), Lake Co. For a highest tally in each county in Illinois, see Table 1

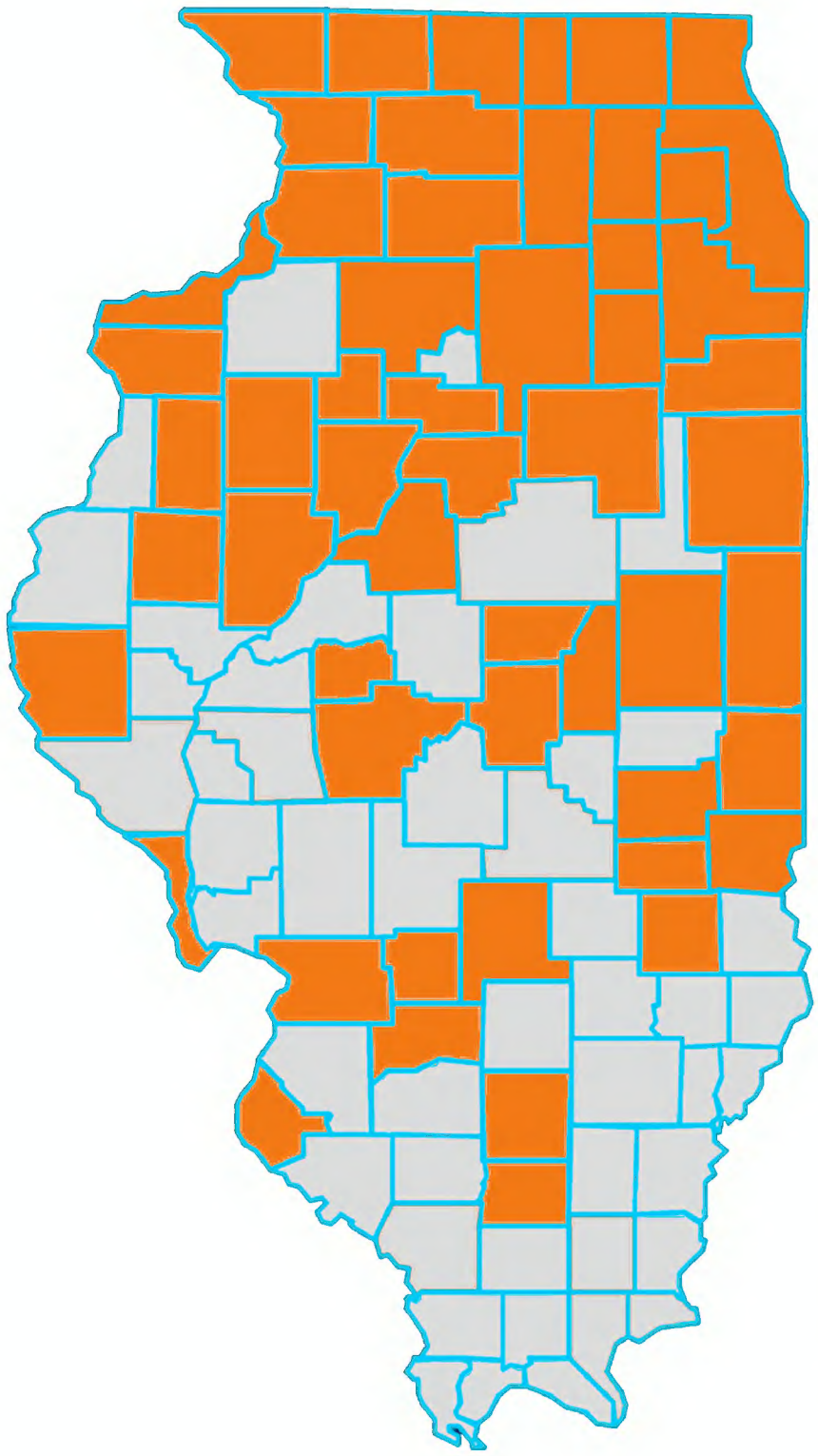
Yard birds

As far as yard birds–no fewer than 20 residences recorded 100 or more redpolls in Lake, Cook, DuPage, Kane, DeKalb and Winnebago counties. Many redpolls covered yards and thistle feeders like "bees."

HOARY REDPOLLS

Hoary Redpolls (*Acanthis hornemanni*) were reported in eight counties during the irruption. Hoary Redpolls are difficult to distinguish from Common Redpolls. Balch (1978) used the characteristics of an unstreaked rump, undertail coverts, bill size and shape, and overall very whitish plumage to separate Hoary Redpolls from Common Redpolls. Luckily, many reported "Hoarys" came with photographs to help confirm identifications. Seven Hoarys were reported in Cook Co.: Evanston, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe, a backyard, Northwestern University Campus and Landfill, Park No. 566, and Skokie Lagoons. DuPage tallied two at residences. Lake Co. had several: at the author's residence in Buffalo Grove; Novotny Park, Winthrop Harbor; a residence in Libertyville; and Arrowhead Lake. McHenry Co. had one at Hickory Grove and one at Shamrock Hills. Will Co. had one report at a private residence and one at McKinley Woods-Moose Island. Fayette Co., in southern Illinois, saw one visiting a feeder on private property. One Hoary was noted at a residence in Winnebago Co. and another at Woodford Co. at Evergreen Lake. For the season, 19 single Hoary Redpolls were noted.

HOARY REDPOLL.
Park No. 566, Cook Co., 20 Jan 2022.
Photo by Dan Lory.



Common Redpoll Major Irruption in Illinois 2021-2022

County	Highest one location Individual Count	Date	Location	Observer
Adams	5	17 Feb 2022	Payson	Jason Mullins
Bond	1	7-8 Feb 2022	Bobwhite Access	Mark Seiffert
Boone	19	23 Feb 2022	Poplar Grove	Joanna Dowling
Bureau	22	29 Jan 2022	Tiskilwa Bottoms	Scott Harp
Calhoun	2	18 Dec 2021	Brussels	Ryan Brady
Carroll	1	15-22 Jan 2022	Airhart Rd.	Matt & Vicki Igleski, Steve Huggins, Dan Williams
Champaign	20	17 Feb 2022	Hessel Park	Nicole Pietrunti & Chad Cremer
Clark	1	15 Feb 2022	Lincoln Trail SP	Steven Lima
Clinton	1	31 Jan 2022	Eldon Hazlet SRA	Mark Seiffert & Keith McMullen
Coles	6	4 Mar 2022	Fox Ridge SP	Vicky & Gordon Tucker
Cook	330	14 Jan 2022	Glenview	John Leonard
Cumberland	14	27 Feb 2022	Greenup Sewage Ponds	Steven Lima
DeKalb	166	30 Jan 2022	Rich Rd. & Schafer Rd.	Ken Reinert
DeWitt	5	9 Feb 2022	White Oak Rd.	Colin Dobson & Matthew Hixson
DuPage	200	5 Mar 2022	Warrenville	John & Shelley Landman
Edgar	2	21 Feb 2022	Blackhawk Park	Steven Lima
Fayette	1*	6 Jan 2022	Brownstown	Tammie Rogers
Franklin	1	4 Mar 2022	Akin	Mike Freed
Fulton	7	23 Feb 2022	Farmington	David B. Johnson
Grundy	153	1 Jan 2022	Heidecke Lake SFWA	Matt Misewicz
Hancock	7	19 Feb 2022	Carthage	Adam Reyburn
Iroquois	1	3 Feb 2022	Sheldon	Jerry Trombley
Jasper	7	28 Feb 2022	Sam Parr SP	Steven Lima
Jefferson	1	24 Feb 2022	Mt. Vernon	Richard Scott
Jo Daviess	3	14 Feb 2022	Elizabeth	Grace Storch
Kane	135	10 Feb 2022	Sleepy Hollow	Jenny Flexman
Kankakee	13	23 Feb 2022	Kankakee Dam	Jed Hertz
Kendall	420	31 Dec 2021	Mundsinger Woods	Ryan Jones & Jude Vickery
Knox	13	5 Mar 2022	Galesburg	Jim Mountjoy
Lake	356	18 Feb 2022	Mundelein	Sheryl DeVore
LaSalle	75	29 Jan 2022	Mendota	Ted Hartzler
Lee	65	20 Feb 2022	Ashton	Ryan Jones & Jason Newton
Livingston	25	6 Feb 2022	Long Point	Don Coons
McDonough	1	17 Feb 2022	Macomb	David Benson & Sheila Nollen
McHenry	300	2 Feb 2022	Hickory Grove	Jeff Aufmann
McLean	30	12 Feb 2022	Bloomington	Kevin Suess
Macon	1	3 Feb 2022	Decatur	Tom Colin
Madison	4	25 Jan 2022	East Alton	David Webb
Marshall	1	11 Jan 2022	Hopewell FP	Maury Brucker
Menard	12	29 Jan 2022	Lake Petersburg	Jim Herkert
Mercer	2	18-20 Feb 2022	Sherrard	Teresa Smith
Monroe	2	19-20 Jan 2022	Willow Lake	Anonymous
Ogle	35	7 Jan 2022	Byron	Russ Cline
Peoria	4	21 Feb 2022	Springdale Cemetery	Pete Fenner
Piatt	3	22 Jan 2022	Allerton Park	Nathan Beccue
Rock Island	32	23 Feb 2022	Augustana College	Stephen Hager
Sangamon	3	17 Feb 2022	Springfield	Jim Mordacq
Stark	73	23 Feb 2022	Wyoming Cemetery	David B. Johnson
Stephenson	46	19 Feb 2022	Freeport	Gary Gordon
Tazewell	15	5 Mar 2022	East Peoria	John Stromberger
Vermilion	1	3 Feb 2022	Hoopeston	Jerry Trombley
Warren	4	1 Feb 2022	Blackthorn Hill NP	Chance Rowan
Whiteside	37	22 Feb 2022	Sterling	Matthew Scroggins
Will	355	31 Dec 2021	Des Plaines CA	Doug Stotz
Winnebago	125	8 Mar 2022	Rockford	Dan Williams
Woodford	77	15 Feb 2022	Raptor Survey	Ted Hartzler

TABLE 1

** Denotes Hoary Redpoll*

BIRD WORD:
Dipping *(definition) - to chase after a bird and fail to find it.*

THE COMMON REDPOLL CHASE

EVERY WINTER I usually have a birding goal of some kind; this year it was chasing redpolls. Common Redpolls had just dropped into my neighborhood on 29 Dec 2021 and were very erratic–not coming into my thistle seed feeders until 3 February 2022 when seven suddenly appeared at my two feeders. This number would grow to a maximum of 213 on 15 February 2022 with our lawn carpeted with redpolls. One lone Hoary Redpoll appeared 24 Feb-14 Mar 2022. Prior to this winter, I'd only seen Common Redpolls in 12 counties in Illinois. With many redpolls being reported, I wanted to add more counties seen with redpolls. Soon I would see 12 at Moraine Hills SP, McHenry Co., while observing a Townsend's Solitaire on 12 Jan 2022. On 13 Jan, I would see eight in Boone Co. feeding on birch catkins in a residential front yard off Caledonia Rd.; then, later in the day, traveling to Lake Le-Aqua-Na SP, Stephenson Co., I observed 42 redpolls feeding on alder catkins near the headquarters building (both thanks to Andy Sigler's prior day report). Next, on 16 Jan, I was treated to 80 redpolls in Will Co., at McKinley Woods/Moose Island, again feeding on alder catkins and littering the snow-covered ground. Later that day, I moved on to Kendall Co., where I found four on Galena Rd. on Blackburn Creek. In Mendota, La Salle Co., I found a lone redpoll in a residential front yard on 26 Jan.

On 1 Feb, I searched a bit farther from my home. After a three-hour drive, I found five redpolls feeding on sweet gum balls with the American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) at the University of Illinois in Urbana, Champaign Co., on a tip from Colin Dobson and Aerin Tedesco. Then on the same day, I hurried out to Livingston Co. where I noted three redpolls in spruces in a farmer's yard near Long Point (this on a tip from Ted Hartzler and Andy Sigler). As February progressed, more redpolls were turning up and I headed out to DeKalb, Lee, and Whiteside counties on 7 Feb, finding 12 redpolls acting like longspurs flying off McGirr Rd. up onto telephone wires in DeKalb Co.; then I dipped in Lee Co. and found one lone redpoll in a residential front yard in Whiteside Co. On 23 Feb, I headed west, first to Woodford Co. and Ted Hartzler's home; Ted had been hosting redpolls at his backyard thistle feeder. After arriving at Ted's home, I immediately saw 12 redpolls in his yard (thank you, Ted!). Redpolls had been reported in Stark Co., west of Ted's, at a cemetery in the town of Wyoming. Here I hit a jackpot of 73 redpolls at the entrance of the cemetery and across the street—all the time feeding or getting grit on the ground—sometimes flying up into the trees on the side of the road. Then with still a lot of daylight, I dipped on a redpoll location in Peoria Co. Not to be daunted, I traveled to Farmington in Fulton Co., where late in the day I observed seven redpolls feeding in a residential yard both on sweet gum balls and birches.

COMMON REDPOLLS. Buffalo Grove, Lake Co., 25 Feb 2022. Photo by David Johnson.

I knew by March that redpolls traditionally depart farther north; and thus I made one last search to add some more redpoll counties by heading out to Rock Island Co. with Andy Sigler on 26 Feb. We started off quite nicely by seeing a Snowy Owl on U.S. 30 at 7 a.m. on our way out. Unfortunately we dipped in Rock Island after a long half-day search. Heading back to the Chicago area, I needed to see redpolls in Lee Co. We dipped at Amboy Nature Center but headed up toward Ashton, where redpolls had been reported. While traveling on N. Franklin Creek Rd. at 55 mph, a large group of birds exploded like longspurs up off the sides of the road; I exclaimed, "Redpolls!" Indeed they were Common Redpolls as we expected. We then counted the birds in the bare tree and in the spruce trees in a lone farmyard; the redpolls then flew up to the telephone wires and then back down again along the roadside. Whew! We had done it! Andy and I had seen redpolls in all northern Illinois counties except Rock Island (it was time for a rest–but not until the redpolls had departed to the north). After continued searches in central Illinois, I added no more redpoll counties. When all this chasing was complete, I added 13 new redpoll counties in 2021-2022 for a total of 25 counties I've observed redpolls in the state. ■

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Fall 2021 through Spring 2022 season

The first observation of a Common Redpoll occurred at Montrose Point, Lincoln Park, Chicago, Cook Co., on 23 Oct 2021 (David Assmann via eBird). The next sighting occurred in Petersburg, Menard Co., on 1 November 2021 (Michael Morin via eBird). The highest counts for November were in northeast Illinois, with 30 tallied at Waukegan Beach, Lake Co., on 19 Nov 2021 and 52 at the Fort Sheridan FP Hawk Watch, Lake Co., on 27 November 2021. Most birds in seven counties in November had not settled in and were noted as migrants and feeding in weedy fields and alder catkins. 1 Dec 2021 brought in 37 redpolls at Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, Cook Co., a known location with birch and alder catkins that in past irruptions has often held good numbers of redpolls. By mid-December, redpolls were noticed frequently and in good numbers (eBird). The first report of 100 was on 20 Dec 2021 at Chicago Botanic Garden (Miles Woodhouse, Owen Woodhouse, and Karen Woodhouse via eBird).

The last redpolls (2) occurred at Seager Park, DuPage Co. on 8 May 2022. A day earlier, at a private residence, a redpoll was noted on the Spring Bird Count in Aurora, DuPage Co. (Tara Beveroth, pers. comm., Joe Suchecki, doc.). May records are very rare but Mlodinow (1984) notes a Spring Bird Count record of seven redpolls on 6 May 1972, Kane Co., and a specimen at Glenwood, Cook Co., 10 May 1956.

The farthest southern Illinois county was Franklin Co., see Table 1. Robinson (1996) notes very few of the erratic redpoll visitors to deep southern Illinois, with published historical records for Jackson County. Kentucky to our south noted single redpolls at Mammoth Cave NP–Visitor Center area, Edmonson Co., and Bowling Green, Warren Co. (via eBird). The season's farthest south Common Redpoll was seen and photographed at Fort Worth, Texas, on 20 Feb 2022 (Young, Brady, and Williams 2022).

Historical Influxes of Common Redpolls

Bohlen (1989) and Mlodinow (1984) list the large redpoll influxes for the years 1968-69, 1969-70, 1971-72, 1977-78, 1981-82. Subsequent to these publications, a perusal of *Illinois Birds and Birding* and *Meadowlark (MJIB)* identified influxes occurring in 1989-90, 1991-92, 1993-94 (major), 1995-96, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2001-02, 2003-04 (modest), 2004-05 (modest), 2006-07 (minor), 2007-08 (major "largest numbers since 1993-94"), 2008-09 (major "likely the largest winter population recorded in the history of Illinois's ornithological publications"). MJIB18(3):119), 2010-11 (minor), 2011-12 (major), 2012-13 (major), 2014-15 (modest), 2015-16 (modest), 2017-18 (major), 2018-19 (modest), 2019-20 (minor), 2021-22 (major). ■

Acknowledgements

Special thanks must go to Eric Secker for providing the Illinois county map and table of redpoll sightings. Thanks to Tara Beveroth for providing details on the Illinois Spring Bird Count record of Common Redpoll. A special thanks to all redpoll observers (too many to name) who provided eBird observational data for the Fall 2021 through Spring 2022 seasons; 6,386 Common Redpoll entries (rows) were made in eBird (2022) for Illinois. Finally, thanks to Sheryl DeVore for suggested revisions and Bob Dolgan for final edits.

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COMMON REDPOLL. McLean Co., 20 Jan 2022. Photo by Ben Murphy.

GULL FROLIC IS FUN IN THE SUN

The 20th Annual IOS Gull Frolic took place on Feb. 19, 2022, after a one-year absence due to the COVID pandemic. Birders from all corners of the state converged on North Point Marina in Lake County for a day of observing gulls on Lake Michigan. Temperatures barely crept out of the teens, though skies were clear and the sun was bright. Sightings included resident Herring and Ring-billed Gulls as well as wintering birds such as Glaucous Gull and Iceland Gull.

HERRING GULLS. North Point Marina, Lake Co., 19 Feb 2022. Photo by Marcia Suchy.

ICELAND GULL (Kumlien's). North Point Marina, Lake Co., 19 Feb 2022. Photo by Tom Lally.

GLAUCOUS GULL. North Point Marina, Lake Co., 19 Feb 2022. Photo by Woody Goss.

ICELAND GULL (Kumlien's). North Point Marina, Lake Co., 19 Feb 2022. Photo by Ryan Sanderson.

GLAUCOUS GULL. Photo by Ryan Sanderson.

2021 ILLINOIS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT

BLUE JAY. Lemont Quarries, Cook Co., 19 Dec 2021.
Photo by Randy Shonkwiler.

COUNT SUMMARY

Illinois experienced a mild count season this year, with 15 counts reaching over 50 degrees, and only eight failing to reach the freezing mark. An average of 41.5 for the high and 30 for the low, with almost no frozen water reported. There were 168 species recorded, within the typical range of 165 to 170 seen from the prior seven years of statewide efforts. Carlyle Lake led the way with 106 species on Dec. 30, followed by Crab Orchard NWR at 105, Horseshoe Lake at 101, and Rend Lake at 100. Twenty-five counts had species totals of 80 to 99. Thirty-seven counts reported fewer than 79 species.

There were 66 counts reporting this year, with a total of 1,182 field observers contributing 3,932 hours with 19,174 miles covered by car, foot, bike, or boat. There were a few more feeder observers with 66, and 1,919 nocturnal hours were logged. Fermilab-Batavia led the way with 90 observers, followed by Lisle-Arboretum with 72, and Evanston (North Shore) with 51.

DUCKS THROUGH HERONS

Four species of waterfowl ranked among the top 10 most numerous, with Snow Goose leading the way at 240,111. Canada Goose (131,239), Mallard (59,910), and Greater White-fronted Goose (27,198) also appearing on most counts, with concentrations of wintering geese in the southern region of the state.

Harlequin Duck appeared on the count after a one-year absence, with a single bird found on Lake Michigan, as is the typical locale for this species. It was a good year for White-winged Scoters, as 144 of the sea ducks were found across three counts. Black Scoter and Surf Scoter appear on the count as well. Red-throated Loons have been identified on each of the past two counts after an inconsistent presence in the past.

RAPTORS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Golden Eagle appeared on the count for the second consecutive year, this time in the Eastern Mercer County circle. Bald Eagle was found on every count in the state except for Chicago Lakefront, as is typical. Forster's Tern makes regular appearances on the count, particularly in the southern section of Illinois, and that was the case this year with a single bird identified at Rend Lake.

Southern Illinois remains an important site for Red-headed Woodpeckers as 317 individuals were found across each of the 17 Southern count circles. That's a decrease versus last year's total of 455 in the Southern region. Pileated Woodpeckers' progress in the Northern region slowed a bit, with 120 individuals observed, down from 138 in 2020.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Common Grackle (239,356) and European Starling (138,490) represented the second- and third-most observed species after Snow Goose. It was a good year for unusual wrens, with a single Marsh Wren and a single Sedge Wren. One Grasshopper Sparrow appeared on the count, the first since 2017. The lone Ammodramus sparrow was found in the northern portion of the state, on the Waukegan count. A single Harris' Sparrow was found on the Rockford count.

Wood warblers can be found regularly on Illinois Christmas Bird Counts, with species like Nashville Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Pine Warbler joining the hardy Yellow-rumped Warbler. A count of seven Pine Warblers represented the highest tally on the CBC since 2019.

A total of 703 Common Redpolls appeared on 14 counts, ranging from Rock Cut State Park in the northern part of the state to Pere Marquette State Park farther south. It was by far the highest redpoll total since at least 2017. As recently as 2019, the count went without any redpolls statewide.

Red Crossbills appear sporadically on Christmas Bird Counts in Illinois, and 2021-2022 proved to be a relatively scarce year, with just five individuals found on three counts. There were 73 Red Crossbills found on the 2020-2021 count.

LOCATION SUMMARIES

The following CBC summaries are grouped by Illinois physiographic region and are listed alphabetically within those groups. Please note that the table only includes birds identified to the species level (i.e., there is no row for Accipiter sp. or Greater/Lesser Scaup, etc., though they are included in the individual count for each CBC) Printed copies are available upon request to the Editor.

LITERATURE CITED

The Christmas Bird Count Historical Results: National Audubon Society. 2010 [accessed 2023]. http://www.christmasbirdcount.org.

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IOS's Meadowlark Magazine

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Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Table 1. Count information, weather, and effort data for the 2021/2022 Christmas Bird Count in Illinois

Count Name	Code	2021-22 Date	Field Obsrs	Total Parties	Party Hours	Party Miles	Fdr. Obsrs	Fdr. Hours	Owl Hours	Owl Miles	Temp (F) Low	Temp (F) High	Wind Dir.	Wind Speed (Low)	Wind Speed (High)	Snow Depth	Water	Sky Conditions (a.m./p.m.)	Compiler	
Andalusia	ANDA	24-Dec	12	4	31	234	0	0	7	57	42	62	South	5	15	0.0	O/O	Clear/Cloudy	Kelly J. McKay	NORTH
Barrington	BARR	20-Dec	32	17	79	227	8	13	3	6	24	41	Southwest	10	16	0.0	PO/O	Cloudy/Pt Clear	Duane Heaton	
Big Rock	BGRK	19-Dec	24	15	64	216	4	7	2	0	21	36	Calm	Unk	Unk	Unk	F/O	Cloudy/Pt Cldy	Timothy Balassie	
Chicago Lakefront	CHLK	25-Dec	20	9	60	136	0	0	0	0	43	46	Northeast	13	16	0.0	O/O	Pt Cldy/Pt Clear	Joel Greenberg	
Clinton IA	CL IA	14-Dec	12	5	45	324	1	1	4	42	33	48	Southeast	5	10	0.0	O/O	Pt Clear/Cloudy	Kelly J. McKay	
Calumet City-Sand Ridge	CALU	18-Dec	31	13	72	205	2	3	0	0	35	37	Northeast	10	15	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Pt Clear	John Elliott	
Chicago (urban)	CHIU	19-Dec	39	16	90	107	2	2	5	5	31	41	Southwest	5	12	0.0	PF/O	Clear/Clear	Jeffrey Sanders	
Davenport IA	DA IA	19-Dec	32	12	83	618	1	2	16	107	18	34	Southwest	0	10	0.0	F/O	Clear/Clear	Kelly J. McKay	
DeKalb	DEKA	18-Dec	26	27	92	518	3	6	3	48	25	33	Northwest	5	14	0.0	PF/PF	Cloudy/Pt Cldy	Karen Lund	
Evanston (North Shore)	EVNS	26-Dec	51	26	127	306	28	34	9	21	28	43	East	0	15	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	John Leonard	
Fermilab-Batavia	FERM	18-Dec	90	48	498	212	0	0	14	24	31	38	Northwest	6	15	0.0	O/O	Clear/Clear	Jeff Chapman	
Freeport	FREE	18-Dec	16	9	52	513	11	11	0	0	24	33	North	5	10	0.0	PF/O	Clear/Clear	Richard Benning	
Hennepin	HENN	16-Dec	12	6	42	260	0	0	4	23	39	43	West	5	16	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Vera Leopold	
Illini S.P.	ILLI	3-Jan	7	5	34	377	0	0	0	0	0	19	Southwest	4	11	3.0	F/PF	Cloudy/Cloudy	Jim Hampson	
Joliet	JOLI	18-Dec	11	7	46	75	2	4	0	0	18	26	Unknown	Unk	Unk	1.0	F/PO	Clear/Cloudy	Gregory Bluhm	
Kishwaukee	KISH	22-Dec	19	11	101	591	3	3	5	52	16	29	Northwest	0	10	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Clear	Barbara Williams	
Kankakee Valley	KANK	26-Dec	10	10	57	340	4	8	2	0	30	43	East	3	15	0.0	O/O	Clear/Clear	Jed Hertz	
Lisle Arboretum	LISL	19-Dec	72	34	211	571	4	7	11	11	32	40	Southwest	3	13	0.0	O/O	Pt Cldy/Clear	Carl Giometti	
Lee Center	LEEC	16-Dec	11	11	39	338	5	11	4	0	37	42	Northeast	18	23	0.0	F/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Diana Rod	
McHenry County	MCHE	18-Dec	42	20	90	548	7	8	5	23	36	39	Northeast	11	14	0.0	PF/O	Clear/Clear	Jeff Aufmann	
Morris-Wilmington	MOWI	26-Dec	10	6	36	217	1	2	0	0	27	44	East	5	15	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Bill Morris	
Muscatine IA	MU IA	23-Dec	18	5	43	390	7	14	5	29	32	50	Southwest	0	15	0.0	PO/O	Clear/Cloudy	Kelly J. McKay	
Princeton-Camanche IA	PC IA	15-Dec	14	7	52	405	0	0	9	71	58	72	Southwest	15	35	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Pt Cldy	Kelly J. McKay	
Rock Cut S.P.	RCSP	28-Dec	12	9	51	261	6	18	7	0	29	35	West	5	10	1.0	F/O	Cloudy/Pt Clear	Joel Neylon	
Rockford	ROCK	18-Dec	36	21	125	657	10	18	7	40	30	37	North	9	14	0.0	PF/O	Foggy/Cloudy	Dan Williams	
Rutland	RUTL	2-Jan	28	18	67	289	2	3	5	2	15	27	North	3	15	5.2	F/O	Cloudy/Pt Cldy	Eric Secker	
Schapville	SCHA	16-Dec	8	4	20	265	5	28	0	0	31	32	Southwest	15	20	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Pt Clear	Terrence Ingram	
Starved Rock S.P.	SRSP	29-Dec	10	7	47	425	2	2	0	0	24	35	Northwest	5	8	1.0	PF/O	Foggy/Cloudy	John McKee	
Thorn Creek-Park Forest	TCPF	18-Dec	28	10	67	414	2	12	1	2	28	35	Northwest	0	0	0.0	O/	Cloudy/Cloudy	Al Thomas	
Van Petten	VPET	21-Dec	7	4	26	249	0	0	6	24	18	38	West	0	30	0.0	PF/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Kelly J. McKay	
Waukegan	WAUK	1-Jan	31	22	82	249	24	60	9	0	23	33	West	8	15	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Adam Sell	
White Pines - Nachusa	WTPN	19-Dec	9	6	47	343	2	4	3	29	26	34	Southwest	0	10	0.0	O/O	Foggy/Pt Cldy	Russ Cline	
Allerton Park	ALPK	2-Jan	14	6	22	165	2	3	2	0	19	31	Northwest	8	22	0.0	F/PO	Cloudy/Cloudy	Nathan Beccue	CENTRAL
Bald Bluff	BABL	26-Dec	9	4	36	274	0	0	9	70	23	44	West	0	20	0.0	PF/PF	Cloudy/Pt Clear	Cathleen Monson	
Bloomington-Normal	BLOM	18-Dec	27	10	60	188	1	2	0	0	32	34	Northwest	13	18	0.0	O/O	Pt Cldy/Pt Cldy	Angelo Capparella	
Chautauqua N.W.R.	CHAU	27-Dec	6	4	33	230	0	0	1	1	40	53	West	6	16	0.0	O/O	Pt Clear//Cloudy	Sigurd Bjorklund	
Champaign County	CHAM	18-Dec	26	10	68	260	5	5	5	15	29	38	Northwest	8	18	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Brody Dunn	
Coles-Cumberland	COCU	18-Dec	29	12	55	259	3	10	1	6	37	39	West	4	8	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Pt Clear	Laurence Thorsen	
Crane Lake-Sangamon	CRSA	18-Dec	6	5	40	251	0	0	2	0	33	39	North	5	15	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Bill Atwood	
Decatur	DECA	18-Dec	9	11	15	91	9	16	0	0	31	38	Northwest	10	20	0.0	O/O	Clear/Clear	Norm Jensen	
Eastern Knox County	EKNX	14-Dec	8	6	46	339	0	0	4	47	28	52	East	5	12	0.0	PF/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Jim Mountjoy	
Eastern Mercer County	EMER	2-Jan	10	6	45	232	0	0	10	62	6	12	Northwest	3	12	6.0	F/PO	Cloudy/Pt Cldy	Cathleen Monson	
Forest Glen Preserve	FGPR	19-Dec	11	6	33	197	6	3	0	0	23	39	Unknown	Calm	5	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Mary Jane Easterday	
Middle Fork River Valley	MFRV	1-Jan	19	10	62	373	1	1	0	0	31	43	Northeast	9	22	0.0	O/O	Foggy/Pt Cldy	Tony Ward	
Meredosia Island	MERE	15-Dec	14	6	54	476	0	0	3	25	58	72	South	12	20	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Pt Clear	James Smith	
Morgan County	MOCO	27-Dec	5	4	44	463	1	4	7	70	38	58	Northwest	8	15	0.0	O/O	Pt Clear//Clear	Colin Dobson	
Peoria	PEOR	18-Dec	14	7	60	374	1	2	4	1	32	34	Southeast	5	15	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Mike Miller	
Pere Marquette Park	PEMR	18-Dec	17	6	34	172	1	1	0	0	33	42	Northwest	7	14	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Karen Ballard	
Quincy	QUIN	31-Dec	5	3	19	164	14	41	0	0	30	55	South	1	5	0.0	O/O	Pt Cldy/Pt Cldy	Brandon Stehl	
Rushville	RUSH	17-Dec	10	7	30	264	4	4	1	1	24	40	Northeast	4	10	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Pt Clear	Carolynn Benninghoff	
SangChris Lake, Christian County	SCLK	23-Dec	10	10	28	271	2	7	1	2	32	51	Southeast	9	12	0.0	O/O	Clear/Clear	Jarod Hitchings	
Springfield	SPFD	2-Jan	12	12	57	336	14	28	2	10	9	22	Northwest	7	22	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	H. David Bohlen	
Western Mercer County	WMER	22-Dec	12	5	42	323	0	0	7	52	18	38	Southwest	5	15	0.0	F/O	Pt Cldy/Pt Cldy	Kelly J. McKay	
Bird Haven Sanctuary, Olney	BIRD	18-Dec	10	5	26	267	1	2	0	0	39	42	South	0	10	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Peter Weber	SOUTH
Baldwin Lake-Kaskaskia River Valley	BALK	18-Dec	12	6	25	192	2	2	1	0	37	39	Northwest	8	13	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Tim Dever	
Carlyle Lake	CALK	30-Dec	9	5	12	12	0	0	4	74	38	50	Unknown	Unk	Unk	Unk		Cloudy/Clear	Dan Kassebaum	
Crab Orchard N.W.R.	CBOR	21-Dec	13	6	59	260	0	0	2	0	27	54	Southwest	5	7	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Pt Cldy	Vicki Lang	
Collinsville	COLL	18-Dec	22	8	44	245	0	0	0	0	30	38	Northwest	4	16	0.0	O/O	Clear/Pt Cldy	Frank Holmes	
Cypress Creek	CYCR	20-Dec	16	6	53	200	0	0	2	0	20	44	North	0	5	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Pt Cldy	Jeff Hoover	
Elsah	ELSA	18-Dec	12	7	25	141	4	12	2	0	37	38	Northwest	5	15	0.0	PF/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Tom Fuller	
Horseshoe Lake	HSLK	28-Dec	16	10	77	290	1	0	1	0	51	68	Southwest	3	30	0.0	O/O	Pt Cldy/	Vernon Kleen	
Jackson County	JACK	1-Jan	8	8	38	191	0	0	2	13	34	61	Northwest	3	8	0.0	O/O	Foggy/Cloudy	Rhonda S. Rothrock	
Monroe County	ILME	27-Dec	16	9	44	293	3	4	2	1	32	59	Southwest	3	18	0.0		Clear/Cloudy	Michael Avara	
Mermet Lake, Massac County	MRLK	30-Dec	7	4	39	276	1	4	2	12	46	53	South	0	6	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Pt Clear	Rhonda S. Rothrock	
Middle Mississippi River N.W.R.	MMWR	31-Dec	11	7	52	254	0	0	1	0	48	65	South	6	17	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Rhonda S. Rothrock	
Newton	NEWT	29-Dec	7	5	34	331	0	0	2	0	38	43	North	5	10	0.0	O/O	Clear/Clear	Jeff Walk	
Rend Lake	RDLK	18-Dec	7	4	25	434	0	0	3	30	39	41	Northwest	10	15	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Keith A. McMullen	
Shelbyville Reservoir	SHEL	2-Jan	6	4	38	351	0	0	0	0	22	28	North	10	20	0.0	O/O	Clear/Clear	Travis Mahan	
Union County	UNION	29-Dec	17	11	71	304	1	0	1	0	44	52	West	2	5	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Pt Cldy	Vernon Kleen	
Warbluff Valley Sanctuary	WRBV	18-Dec	16	7	42	294	0	0	0	0	38	58	Northwest	3	14	0.0	O/O	Cloudy/Cloudy	Andrea Douglas	

Table 2. Northern Illinois data for the 2021/2022 Christmas Bird Count (north of I-80)

Species	ANDA	BARR	BGRK	CHLK	CALU	CHIU	CLIA	DAIA	DEKA	EVNS	FERM	FREE	HENN	ILLI	JOLI	KANK	KISH	LISL	LEEC	MCHE	MOWI	MUIA	PCIA	RCSP	ROCK	RUTL	SCHA	SRSP	TCPF	VPET	WAUK	WTPN
African Collared-Dove															1																	
American Black Duck		7	20		5		1	9		13	2		4	2		2	11	6		12	87			2	8	9			3		14	
American Coot		1		7	67	21	145			9					4		1			4	11											
American Crow	175	146	90	55	43	70	562	145	88	184	89	287	193	42	71	83	371	75	106	373	99	224	25	152	402	42	231	111	55	152	48	57
American Goldfinch	75	209	77	34	103	239	52	257	192	720	611	139	26	29	85	47	360	735	96	315	45	128	38	242	881	171	47	65	60	22	175	100
American Kestrel	17	3	5	5	9	2	41	32	16	4	7	17	10	13	11	11	11	12	12	6	6	41	41	7	19	7	12	33	6	8	6	12
American Pipit							1																									
American Robin	68	207	173	81	139	1423	22	351	23	778	356	134	42	95	146	397	22	731	6	46	325	38	7	22	46	90	15	43	71	6	107	12
American Tree Sparrow	141	161	176	5	321	31	351	144	55	214	783	30	42	254	54	81	191	196	19	379	146	174	130	152	451	540	12	90	134	110	383	26
American White Pelican	68				1			101					3									180	1									
American Wigeon							6	2	1									1			4											
Azure Tit (Yellow-breasted)									1																							
Bald Eagle	59	7	9		12	1	122	147	9	7	14	27	41	50	5	5	61	13	3	16	15	56	67	5	58	7	20	26	5	14	8	18
Barn Owl													1																			
Barred Owl	35		2				6	38		1	4		4				6	2	2	1	1	17	10	5	10			2	1	2	1	4
Belted Kingfisher	3	7	8	3	12	4	6	9	7	13	11	1	4	1	5		7	23		2	4	5	5	1	5	4	3	2	3	1	2	7
Black Scoter										2																						
Black-capped Chickadee	166	149	265	57	144	103	145	499	211	521	649	146	150	74	54	56	490	742	85	293	117	214	99	314	570	201	36	109	58	62	264	286
Black-crowned Night-Heron					2	8																										
Blue Jay	110	45	57		62	38	164	164	89	254	150	133	18	38	25	91	119	359	32	95	57	123	30	94	249	96	17	53	100	59	68	83
Bohemian Waxwing											1																					
Brewer's Blackbird	3							3																								
Brown Creeper	40	13	22		3	15	22	41	14	14	67	3	18	12	10	29	47	33	14	13	19	18	17	21	28	21		3	6	19	3	19
Brown-headed Cowbird	335	29	1				3	5301		4	1	1	66	469		275				53	351	32	1		1			25	1			
Bufflehead			3	16	33	10	819	4		3	1		24				1	11		7	9	7				1					67	
Cackling Goose			57		10			315	78		3		11	3	60		18		22	2		2		20	18	6		18	2			1
Canada Goose	752	1436	5514	2761	4001	6139	2076	10355	4157	3782	11522	1434	642	1524	2529	2427	3125	5517	2246	7902	1381	1330	811	3733	6370	9659	74	1286	3850	874	5445	1592
Canvasback	1		4		10		10017	15		1			13									23								7		
Carolina Chickadee																																
Carolina Wren	12		3			1	8	16		2	8	1	2	3	4	4	4	5			4	3			1	4		2	2			1
Cedar Waxwing	94	78	53		18	1	103	34	31	115	425	31	28	1	1	6	56	197	8	234		15	33	294	124	52	48		23	5	239	421
Clay-colored Sparrow			1																													
Common Goldeneye	394	4	3	181	14	7	9861	696		355	52		24	38	57	3	1	16		13	99	987		6	67	488		16		91	298	
Common Grackle	3601	15	423					8661			14		4		3	7					6	4114				18		2507	6			
Common Loon										5																						
Common Merganser	10	4	9		71		26	21		51	87		80	12	221		16	73		1		57	2	2	17	21		26			66	
Common Redpoll		2				1				529	8					4				13	22			5	6	88					5	
Common Yellowthroat																					1											
Cooper's Hawk	5	7	7		7	10	2	12	8	20	17		3	1	7	2	10	21	1	13	7	5		4	22	4	1	3	5	1	8	2
Dark-eyed Junco	353	416	311	55	466	546	258	696	562	767	984	365	135	354	129	242	567	1051	184	667	384	235	133	666	992	661	39	205	290	234	402	438
Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)																									1							
Double-breasted Cormorant				2	16	1	21	6		1								1			7											
Downy Woodpecker	82	89	107	22	117	127	95	207	132	268	294	58	41	37	39	83	223	374	34	105	56	85	47	54	310	108	14	53	80	45	87	98
Eastern Bluebird	21	34	6		4	1	36	13		16	61	7	8	3	6	9	120	43	17	65	3	10		18	67	15	6	2			10	24
Eastern Meadowlark	4										1																	1				
Eastern Phoebe										1								1					1									
Eastern Screech-Owl	7	3				5	2	5		8	23		1			7	3	23		7	5	2	7	7	1	1				16	11	7
Eastern Towhee											1		1										1									
Eurasian Collared-Dove	55		35				38	2	7			5		1	7	4	61	1	36				10	4	2		1			19		
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	445		1				124	520	12			55	8				2		5			277	56		24			2		206		27
European Goldfinch																				1												
European Starling	1785	841	5246	484	5540	1500	2553	35402	1429	1401	2250	1798	1496	1612	984	7575	9090	2865	487	1941	919	2663	1695	1292	1013	1090	218	7112	4446	498	386	1069
Field Sparrow		1											1		1			3							6	3				4		
Fox Sparrow	3	1	12			4		1	1		28		2		8	6	2	8		1	5	4	1	1	5	8		2		8	1	2
Gadwall	3	3			113	2	88	21	4	12	4		51		93			31			70			1					4		11	
Glaucous Gull								1																							1	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	15	5	2	1	2	6	16	9	3	22	18	1	9	3	1	6	23	10		4	10	5	13	5	9	6		1		34		17
Grasshopper Sparrow																															1	
Gray Catbird						2		1			1									1						1						
Great Black-backed Gull					1																							1				
Great Blue Heron	4		3	4	16	12	3	29	4	18	22		13	1	16	2	2	18		18	8	1	8		3	10	1		3		6	1
Great Horned Owl	20	8	5		2	7	2	23	5	14	28		1		3	15	6	42	1	3	3	5	8	6	12	1			6	5	2	3
Greater Scaup				3539	191		2	2		40											2										1610	
Greater White-fronted Goose	86		25			1	40	351	1		4		900	185						4	76					3			80			
Green-winged Teal	8					2		2																	1							
Hairy Woodpecker	24	23	20		12	33	31	33	8	111	59	11	21	8	6	9	40	83	12	30	9	37	23	12	66	39		7	8	10	35	21
Harlequin Duck																															1	
Harris' Sparrow																									1							
Hermit Thrush	18	1	10	2		7	11	10		3	6					10	9	7	4	4	2	1	2	1		8				14	1	
Herring Gull	6	5	1	534	456	24	42	49	1	192	34		18	10	8		344	140		17	21	1	1	126	5	97		102		7	562	1
Hooded Merganser			3	8	136	29	2	7		10	15			3	116			41			46	17	3			5		1			92	
Horned Grebe						1	1											1				1									1	
Horned Lark	17	3	1				4	2	48		3	8	158	135		11	5					7	2	1	3	212		34		22	2	102
House Finch	118	149	160	4	70	96	128	252	263	191	267	176	28	84	95	238	384	258	60	229	128	114	35	187	682	273	52	97	82	269	125	72

Table 2. Northern Illinois data for the 2021/2022 Christmas Bird Count (north of I-80) *continued*

Species	ANDA	BARR	BGRK	CHLK	CALU	CHIU	CLJA	DAJA	DEKA	EVNS	FERM	FREE	HENN	ILLI	JOLI	KANK	KISH	LISL	LEEC	MCHE	MOWI	MUJA	PCJA	RCSP	ROCK	RUTL	SCHA	SRSP	TCPF	VPET	WAUK	WTPN
House Sparrow	945	537	187	140	911	790	692	1271	635	1192	845	798	274	261	213	349	546	1094	147	417	227	714	381	348	739	500	90	569	319	878	377	489
House Wren			1																													
Iceland Gull				1	2												3	1						1							1	
Killdeer		2	1				1	2	1								1	1				1										
Lapland Longspur			1				161	1				26	237		31	30							2			25		57		2		
Lesser Black-backed Gull										1							11											2				
Lesser Scaup	2			4	235	2	511	431		4	2		63							2	9	37	2			2			3		2	
Lincoln's Sparrow																														1		
Long-eared Owl	2	4					8				2												1							2		
Long-tailed Duck										11																						
Mallard	80	569	945	73	932	545	1676	1713	433	1159	1195	293	824	213	459	62	262	1358	5	983	2004	159	41	183	1215	643		135	416	83	790	25
Marsh Wren					1																											
Merlin		1			3			1	1	1							1	1							2	1					1	
Monk Parakeet					2																											
Mourning Dove	114	164	257	2	213	293	204	306	54	438	417	126	51	353	144	304	247	618	25	329	106	180	107	205	252	276	35	94	301	91	123	142
Mute Swan		1	1		38			8		3	1		19		6			4		5	4										28	
Northern Bobwhite																2																
Northern Cardinal	191	127	121	55	108	159	192	389	188	355	409	146	77	86	70	111	289	504	36	153	83	217	131	139	361	198	16	161	102	45	145	149
Northern Flicker	29	10	19		7		38	29	3	11	56	5	23	6	9	25	35	17	3	3	24	35	29	6	60	9	1	8	7	12	3	11
Northern Harrier		2	2				5	1	1		9		7	1	2	3	1		1	2	7	1	1	2	4	5		1	5	1	2	
Northern Mockingbird					1		1																									
Northern Pintail			9	1	5		2	19		1	6		6					2		2	37			3						2	8	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	4		1					2		1	6		1					2		3		1		2		1						
Northern Shoveler							11	15			10		53		32			62			20											
Northern Shrike		2			1			1	2		2									2	3				2				1		1	1
Orange-crowned Warbler						1					1					2	1	2			1									1		
Peregrine Falcon					3		1	3					1				1	1				2									1	1
Pied-billed Grebe					8	1	1	3			1									2	3											
Pileated Woodpecker	12		3				5	18			2	1	9	3	2	5	11	16	2	1	5	11	7	1	22			11			1	13
Pine Siskin	10	12				6		9	6	87	15					4		25	1	7		1		5	40					2	3	
Purple Finch	13	23	5			1	22	9	3		5	4	3		1	17		15	12	18		11	3	3	13	44				46		
Red Crossbill																1														2		2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	81	76	112	1	39	60	95	144	74	284	323	51	69	25	37	62	195	308	30	82	52	73	58	55	219	106	15	47	31	26	76	71
Red-breasted Merganser				2900	278	10	1			1613			3					18													242	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	16	7	1	6	10	11	12	7	46	47	4	2		6	3	36	46	8	23	5	8	3	9	21	6	1	6	2	17	16	11
Red-headed Woodpecker	46	2	3		4		5	15	1	30	2	3	1			5		7	1	1		17	11		36			7	9			2
Red-shouldered Hawk	2					1		3			1	1		1		2		1		1		1			1			2				1
Red-tailed Hawk	25	50	31	3	25	18	58	58	33	64	89	33	31	29	22	38	45	93	16	63	44	57	20	22	66	46	15	37	42	16	30	38
Red-throated Loon										4																					3	
Red-winged Blackbird	3675	229	7		6	18	103	54809		7	12		340	447		2		15	2	5	989	167	33		103	50	30	1007	20	1	7	
Redhead			5	17	762	4				1	1				3																55	
Ring-billed Gull	456	190		672	390	57	1086	3811	3	182	79		216	289	178		103	192		140	524	133	157	73	11	237		255	24	65	790	
Ring-necked Duck	1		90		77		14	12		2			12					6		7				3		1					3	
Ring-necked Pheasant	4		7						1			3		1		8				1		9	6		3					30		1
Rock Pigeon	161	158	81	120	439	1950	249	381	83	364	381	817	43	191	13	313	459	581	19	113	92	43	213	192	474	183	20	684	177	155	252	205
Ross' Goose									4																							
Rough-legged Hawk	2							1				2	3	2			1	1			7	2			3	2	1	1				5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		1				4	2	2	1	3		2		1	1		5			3	2				1				1	1	
Ruddy Duck							44	3					23								2								1			
Rusty Blackbird	9	2					2	245														20										
Sandhill Crane	2			6			364	5	42		2141		2			303	1	15		235	199				72	281			573			
Savannah Sparrow											1														1							
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		2					5		1	2	2		1	3	4	1	4		1		4	2	1	5		1	4		3	1	1
Short-eared Owl	4								1		1		1								1				2				1			
Snow Bunting							2						6	26		4		2												2		
Snow Goose	1		6			1			6		16		4				1					1		1	1	1			1			
Snowy Owl												1		1																	1	
Song Sparrow	25	13	11		15	8	19	96	2	29	97	5	8	4	7	14	17	71		22	12	26	6	27	49	28			12	14	13	1
Surf Scoter																																
Swamp Sparrow	20	3	3		22	11	12	56	10	13	31	2	3			3		8	3	1	4	10	9		8	8				1		1
Tennessee Warbler											1																					
Trumpeter Swan	4				28		130	2					6					8			17	1	54								13	
Tufted Titmouse	35		16		7		19	50	9		8	8	30	22	7	16	20	25	10	8	7	33	21	4	29	1	6	24	14	2	1	28
Tundra Swan			6		1		6149					4	15					1			32					26			5		6	
Western Meadowlark	2																															
White-breasted Nuthatch	76	76	128	2	62	80	101	264	127	248	223	47	59	17	31	77	260	439	58	94	50	119	28	46	304	77	16	37	38	24	90	119
White-crowned Sparrow	2	18	6		22			2	22		39			2	2	7		13		8	23	4			8	16			6	4	3	
White-throated Sparrow	57	28	58	6	3	52	16	118	6	13	85	5	55	18	7	62	38	65	3	49	48	77	8	4	10	72		80		11	4	16
White-winged Scoter										143																					1	
Wild Turkey	9				12		23	25	5		4	7	4		11	5	40			46		23	29	105	124			1		24		76
Wilson's Snipe													2																			
Winter Wren	7	2	3				8	5	1	15	12	1	4			5	12	23	2	2	3	1	2	2	1	8		1	2		4	2
Wood Duck			1		1	3	1	10					2			2		1		2									1			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4		1			1	5	7					3	2		2	4		1		3	2	1		1	1		1		2		1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9	4	15			7	10	6		13	15		1			6	38	25	3	6		5			16	13				1		2
TOTAL SPECIES	82	66	80	43	78	68	90	97	63	78	87	50	88	56	61	69	68	84	49	76	82	78	65	66	75	71	33	58	55	64	85	57

Table 3. Central Illinois data for the 2021/2022 Christmas Bird Count (between I-80 and I-70)

Species	ALPK	BABL	BLOM	CHAU	CHAM	COCU	CRSA	DECA	EKNX	EMER	FGPR	MFRV	MERE	MOCO	PEOR	PEMR	QUIN	RUSH	SCLK	SPFD	WMER
American Black Duck			3										13	3						1	
American Coot			4					1								16				1	
American Crow	87	153	318	61	709	841	21	153	330	152	6568	23002	37	59	479	16	13	63	202	586	77
American Goldfinch	18	48	108	13	229	99	68	120	68	35	50	46	104	91	80	41	106	65	84	79	30
American Kestrel	5	31	16	13	13	17	33	3	20	7	14	20	42	53	10	33	24	39	24	16	46
American Pipit	1																				
American Robin	2	74	53	55	560	173	199	16	27	20	9	90	27	131	106	21	22	1	54	152	16
American Tree Sparrow	23	70	43	15	84	31	121			728	38	181	230	80	33	28	34	23	81	42	201
American White Pelican		75											1			25					67
American Wigeon													10	2			1			5	
Bald Eagle	10	72	11	27	5	20	42	3	26	46	18	17	68	11	26	37	7	44	11	14	109
Barred Owl	2	38	4	1		3	12	1	12	9	4	1		10	2	5	2	11		1	8
Belted Kingfisher	1	5	8	2	6	7	3	5	4	2	2	4	3	4	6	2	3	1	2	1	
Black Scoter					2																
Black-capped Chickadee	77	226	129	51	8		99	42	110	160			100	56	134	68	53	30	17	60	180
Blue Jay	30	247	142	69	108	95	76	31	93	152	82	131	91	123	133	111	89	119	92	143	121
Bonaparte's Gull				18				33													
Brown Creeper	17	25	19	8	15	11	15		9	23	5	8	19	4	10	2		3	2	8	14
Brown Thrasher				1										1		1				1	
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	7	32	4	431	8			937	151	5	391		2				86		145	300
Bufflehead			1		1	1	21					1	5		11	37				6	
Cackling Goose			15							1			9				3			3	
Canada Goose		1053	1175	1386	782	247	738	249	747	2547	501	553	622	660	882	391	560	314	275	1922	930
Canvasback							14						1								39
Carolina Chickadee					47	86					35	35									
Carolina Wren	2	7	2	2	18	33	7	10	2		12	4	5	12	10	12	5	4	2	19	3
Cedar Waxwing	94	272	29	4	104	181	279		109	16	6	55	249	510	70	27	70	515	25	75	96
Chipping Sparrow													1	1							
Common Goldeneye		13	8	21			18	15	2			6			263	38				180	10
Common Grackle	30	1		1	150				871	135		1				1			30	315	
Common Loon						1							1								
Common Merganser		32	2	200						8			3			3	9			10	84
Common Redpoll					1							17				2					
Common Yellowthroat				1																	
Cooper's Hawk	2	4	5		5	1	1	6	5	3	2	2		3	3	3	3	5	8	7	2
Dark-eyed Junco	43	440	254	76	179	280	238	60	373	1222	101	316	147	238	213	67	203	169	75	468	451
Double-crested Cormorant				9										1						1	
Downy Woodpecker	32	92	85	29	73	59	27	38	50	47	33	22	44	46	50	47	28	22	21	72	85
Eastern Bluebird		33		2	24	16	11	2	4	8	1	8	24	10	4	7		1		1	13
Eastern Meadowlark			1			3					5	4				26			1		
Eastern Phoebe								1					1								
Eastern Screech-Owl		29							3	5				5	2						7
Eastern Towhee		1	2			7														1	2
Eurasian Collared-Dove	4	116		8	4	1			15	17		19	14	62	2	3	5		3		4
Eurasian Tree Sparrow		246	1	5			278	3	200	304			53	138	14	15	44	7	40	1	339
European Starling	178	991	1708	336	6704	1073	634	756	3112	892	1157	1699	311	3938	1953	1469	884	1174	967	4460	7163
Field Sparrow														1	1	1				4	4
Fish Crow			1																		
Fox Sparrow			3		9	8						7	4	1		7	1			2	3
Gadwall			7	198			63		5				86	48	5	2120	100		5	20	2
Golden Eagle										1											
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14	93	10	15	8	14	7		17	26	3	6	26	4	4	4	2	2	7	4	5
Great Blue Heron		19	5	4	8	11	10	2	4		2	16	10	9	6	18	19	1	10	12	2
Great Egret				2																	
Great Horned Owl	1	28	2	1		3	5	1	6	8	1	1	2	16	2				2	2	13
Greater Scaup			7				1														
Greater White-fronted Goose	723	215		1995	1		26		5		101	347	700	108	37	2001	200		280	1083	14
Green-winged Teal				413	1		8						6		2	2001				3	101
Hairy Woodpecker	9	23	10	9	11	8	11	7	15	20	9	6	9	6	9	7	2	2	4	11	16
Hermit Thrush	1	37	3	1	3	7	1			3		4	2	1	1		1		1		17
Herring Gull		6		1				2		24		79			22				1	17	6
Hooded Merganser	2		5	29		6		4				10		2	4	10			1	121	
Horned Grebe							4								3				4	2	
Horned Lark	43	25		1	1	48	28		13	606	16	20	56	10		52	2	3	45		8
House Finch	12	30	92	9	134	40	25	47	93	115	54	51	6	48	183	1	111	43	8	127	54
House Sparrow	94	384	197	110	609	301	73	136	516	787	287	311	245	994	836	17	273	161	178	567	321
House Wren								1													
Killdeer						9										23	1				7
Lapland Longspur	500	20		45			25			166		100	1								4
Least Sandpiper																12					
Lesser Black-backed Gull																				1	
Lesser Scaup				65		20	164		1				25		325	19				12	

Table 3. Central Illinois data for the 2021/2022 Christmas Bird Count (between I-80 and I-70) *continued*

Species	ALPK	BABL	BLOM	CHAU	CHAM	COCU	CRSA	DECA	EKNX	EMER	FGPR	MFRV	MERE	MOCO	PEOR	PEMR	QUIN	RUSH	SCLK	SPFD	WMER
Lincoln's Sparrow																					1
Long-eared Owl	1	12							1	2	7										2
Mallard	16	314	525	1252	95	9	5126	61	14	3	4	13	9942	214	251	1344	225		225	304	181
Merlin			1				2			1											
Mourning Dove	85	178	42	28	241	139	499	42	23	202	98	96	69	222	168	70	72	67	837	113	43
Mute Swan			2	44								15		1				2		15	
Nashville Warbler				1																	
Northern Bobwhite		5		1			1		5	3				1				2			1
Northern Cardinal	47	190	135	63	171	152	111	39	132	203	54	74	118	171	136	101	78	82	70	243	194
Northern Flicker	23	60	16	23	39	24	16	3	18	24	9	10	18	21	13	24	6	11	17	16	43
Northern Goshawk												1									
Northern Harrier	6	4	3	4	2		4		2	4	5	3	10	3		19		4	4	3	
Northern Mockingbird		1		1		2								1							
Northern Pintail				636			328	11					43	1		133					
Northern Saw-whet Owl		19								1	6	2									3
Northern Shoveler				41			48						101	4	12	159	10		39		6
Northern Shrike							1					1		1			1				1
Orange-crowned Warbler		1					1												1	3	
Peregrine Falcon															1					2	
Pied-billed Grebe			3	1		8					1			2	1					4	
Pileated Woodpecker	11	14		3	7	9	9	4	8		9	17	5	2	9	16	1	5	3	8	5
Pine Siskin	2				1	1						4									
Purple Finch		145	10	24	7	23	3		4	7		16	13	3	1	3	5	3	2		78
Red-bellied Woodpecker	37	98	74	40	89	51	36	25	51	66	39	48	37	65	73	51	22	35	27	80	62
Red-breasted Merganser			2			8										3				5	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		59	3	5	11		3	2	3	5	2	2	3	1	1		2	3		1	
Red-headed Woodpecker	17	40	10		5	21	16	1	5	11	22	29	6	21	4	12	4	30	2	12	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	3	4		3	9	2	2	5	1	11	17	4	2	1	1	1		11	3	
Red-tailed Hawk	8	34	31	25	28	19	18	9	50	27	26	20	26	52	37	57	11	29	34	30	51
Red-winged Blackbird		3	5	50	250	24	18	30	489	88	4	91	127	20		2005			30	1148	1105
Redhead						1														8	
Ring-billed Gull		66	13	31		1	11	785	1	1	11	140	36	25	643	27	66	5	1085	747	41
Ring-necked Duck			3	300	2		340							4		10	15			32	
Ring-necked Pheasant	1					6	1		3	4	1	7	1						4		1
Rock Pigeon	73	68	98	4	495	24	32	81	104	32	10	129	29	131	342	1	179	21	4	211	74
Ross' Goose																5	1			1	
Rough-legged Hawk	2	6	2	3		3	2	2	6	8	2	1	1	1		1		2	2	1	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		3	10	1			6		1			1	10	1	2	1			3	2	
Ruddy Duck				4		5						3	14		130	800				370	
Rusty Blackbird		60			3	40				5			14								7
Sandhill Crane	47											2									
Savannah Sparrow				2						1			1			5					
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		1	1	1				2	1			1	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1
Short-eared Owl	1	2							1	1			3								
Snow Bunting		1								6								3			1
Snow Goose	134	28		4327		9						337	104			6040	302	50	175	1225	
Song Sparrow	2	13	5	7	24	17	20	3	11	21	9	20	31	39	11	47	12	2	14	25	53
Swamp Sparrow		3		1	4		12		7	2	4	1	8	14		22	1		1	4	34
Trumpeter Swan			1	1525			19		38		6		23	7	10	30	120	28			7
Tufted Titmouse	68	72	36	39	42	81	59	33	20	24	51	43	38	41	41	39	8	49	29	83	39
Tundra Swan				158																5	7
Turkey Vulture						151		4			2	3	1					2	9	1	
Western Meadowlark		2																			
White-breasted Nuthatch	62	113	88	27	61	54	40	25	69	80	34	32	15	25	62	25	26	23	18	56	81
White-crowned Sparrow				1	11	19	17		5			4	2	10		61	3	8		2	20
White-throated Sparrow	42	16	109	5	98	92	106	5	32	28	13	104	128	190	104	70	32	30	72	66	24
Wild Turkey		7	5	10	5	27	27			2		47	6		8			31		5	24
Wilson's Snipe		1								1			7			39				1	1
Winter Wren	2	3	2		1		4		6	1			2	1		2				1	5
Wood Duck			1										1	1						1	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	3	3	1	3	11	3		1	3	1		4	3	1		3	1	1	4	6
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	92	5	10	5	12	4	1	6	1		11	41	11			1		21	6	20
TOTAL SPECIES	57	76	72	82	65	70	75	48	67	40	56	77	90	79	66	84	60	55	63	89	80

Table 4. Southern Illinois data for the 2021/2022 Christmas Bird Count (south of I-70)

Species	BALK	BIRD	CALK	CBOR	COLL	CYCR	ELSA	HSLK	JACK	MRLK	MWWR	MONR	NEWT	RDLK	SHEL	UNION	WRBV
American Black Duck			4	7									2	3		3	
American Coot	62	1	1	75	250	6			2			76		18			
American Crow	45	69	426	138	140	590	108	4200	78	34	609	106	80	194	159	392	105
American Goldfinch	88	44	120	21	53	23	58	111	155	114	93	86	29	90	181	330	45
American Kestrel	17	33	41	14	17	20	11	33	20	47	38	26	9	44	11	34	49
American Pipit						1		40	13	1		1				27	
American Robin	55	89	86	302	155	86	3	81	110	122	54	160	46	109	413	113	93
American Tree Sparrow	1	7	37	12	5	4	7	13	2	11	10	39	75	12	23	3	
American White Pelican	62		859	23	33		34					1		562	23		
American Wigeon	2		19	192		4		9		4	2	42		4		22	
Bald Eagle	10	11	96	18	6	9	6	60	19	9	92	20	8	15	27	36	13
Barn Owl								2					1		1		
Barred Owl	5	1	15	13		9	2	9	8	14	11	6	10	4	5	8	5
Belted Kingfisher	1	2	5	4	3	1	1	4	7	2	1	6	1	2	2	4	3
Black Vulture			2	44		115		119	310	96	7	5		1		24	50
Black-capped Chickadee							59								71		
Blue Jay	54	147	118	192	76	128	110	199	193	167	175	96	155	225	187	292	296
Blue-winged Teal												112					
Bonaparte's Gull	64		4596	231				1					10	1106	2924		
Brewer's Blackbird			55	1					1		1						
Brown Creeper	1	4	11	8	1	5	3	27	4	15	11	10	2	8	9	29	1
Brown Thrasher		2	1	2	1	2		3	4	11	1			1		5	
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	180	1042	6	2	105		200	205		172	36	522	2311	4	100	
Bufflehead	14	13	207	237	7				33	4				71	9	2	
Cackling Goose			10					2		1		3				2	
Canada Goose	238	74	339	8412	840	96	251	1000	436	115	137	88	190	130	455	175	55
Canvasback	7	4	60	10	63			80		11				40		172	
Carolina Chickadee	22	58	82	103	81	138		257	53	133	217	119	42	78		278	54
Carolina Wren	2	1	24	22	17	15	7	59	11	58	17	6	8	6	19	39	5
Cedar Waxwing	7	152	161	45	98	80	117	141	258	90	100	34		312	1555	254	310
Chipping Sparrow										1						11	
Clay-colored Sparrow										1							
Common Goldeneye	51	14	1431	73	11	1			3	5	1		2	83	202		
Common Grackle	7	4	100	393	200218	19732		27	446	231	99	18	9072	837	1	14	18
Common Loon	2	1	11	3										10	1		
Common Merganser				10											2		
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	5	3	15	2	2	5			1	2	4	4	2	1	2
Dark-eyed Junco	74	105	239	195	58	294	217	253	343	188	157	172	147	247	533	382	481
Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)																	
Double-crested Cormorant	2		23	46					1			2		237	1		
Downy Woodpecker	16	29	45	34	24	62	22	89	14	41	90	54	25	20	42	102	23
Eastern Bluebird	6	6	18	15	11	36		58	47	41	95	33	9	26	20	44	72
Eastern Meadowlark			17	35		4		3		60	2	16	57	32		3	24
Eastern Phoebe				2		3		7		1	1	1				1	1
Eastern Screech-Owl			1			1		4	2	2	13	3		1	1	4	
Eastern Towhee	6	3	20	13		25	5	29	1	41		6	17	6	4	43	21
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2		10		1	6	2	8	4	2	7	5	8	2	1		
Eurasian Tree Sparrow			2		48		15										
European Starling	482	1277	6238	2507	1086	408	213	900	929	789	1247	1087	7205	3739	1347	255	855
Field Sparrow		5	10	5	3	23		61	6	195	36	20	17	6	10	170	37
Fish Crow			9					2									
Forster's Tern														1			
Fox Sparrow		4	4	4	3	11		8	1	2	7	6	1	7	12	93	11
Gadwall	28	6	272	2314	609	90		1200	6	72	90	500	33	367	2	1150	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	5	18	0	39	50		103	25	46	28	7	11	38	33	110	37
Gray Catbird		1					1								1		
Great Blue Heron	8	7	60	12	33	7	17	20	18	21	4	10	13	68	3	12	6
Great Egret				4							3						
Great Horned Owl	2		4	2		5	2	6	5	2	6	1	4		1	1	1
Greater Prairie-Chicken													27				
Greater Scaup			4														
Greater White-fronted Goose	330	120	858	732		2770		2800	1	37	1152	75	21	191	3610	5300	
Green-winged Teal	16		94	1463		40		43	2	53	6	40		275		375	
Hairy Woodpecker	3	7	12	8	5	12	6	9	6	16	30	17	3	18	10	31	5
Hermit Thrush	2	1	7	5	1	9		18	2	10	17	1	1	9	3	33	7
Herring Gull	300		51		20			1		1				33	35		
Hooded Merganser	1	7	410	41	6	7		20	25	14	2	2		155	23		4
Horned Grebe			2	4					1					3			
Horned Lark	8	19	70	2	15	72		70	32	17	126	167	7	15	92	42	
House Finch	41	100	84	22	33	59	19	13	19	47	51	32	15	17	137	29	116
House Sparrow	43	322	469	78	76	54	71	105	123	144	51	71	92	162	390	101	5
House Wren				1				1		2							

Table 4. Southern Illinois data for the 2020/2021 Christmas Bird Count (south of I-70) *continued*

Species	BALK	BIRD	CALK	CBOR	COLL	CYCR	ELSA	HSLK	JACK	MRLK	MMWR	MONR	NEWT	RDLK	SHEL	UNION	WRBV
Iceland Gull															1		
Killdeer		32	101	6		36		221	24	8	211	1		114	17	2	
Lapland Longspur		105	510			2		95	15	2	572	2	80	22	1380		
Least Sandpiper														19			
Lesser Black-backed Gull					3										1		
Lesser Scaup	4		776	14	10	1		7	15	34		104	1	31		5	
Lincoln's Sparrow								1		1							
Mallard	422	72	2105	6712	246	681		5800	102	858	298	2499	208	668	187	3000	48
Merlin			1														
Mourning Dove	103	221	458	97	24	35	52	304	239	329	284	154	467	120	177	338	133
Mute Swan					11				2								
Northern Bobwhite		4	1						2	1			11				
Northern Cardinal	63	135	270	175	139	194	122	406	208	229	203	138	88	182	463	440	129
Northern Flicker	16	16	35	31	18	56	9	93	15	64	44	21	43	35	31	118	42
Northern Goshawk																	
Northern Harrier	21	5	41	4		8	4	23	1	2	12	4	17	4	7	5	7
Northern Mockingbird	1	2	5	19	6	12	2	4	11	21	4	12		2	1	8	2
Northern Pintail	1	4	1960	5812	5	691		260			652		3	117	42	230	7
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1																
Northern Shoveler	67	3	513	971	114	255		22	12	4	21	250	5	14	2	76	18
Orange-crowned Warbler			3	1				2		1				1			
Palm Warbler			1	1							1						
Peregrine Falcon					1	2											
Pied-billed Grebe	32	17	4	12	2			1	8	9		6	7	14	1		19
Pileated Woodpecker	3	2	1	18	2	29	13	41	1	27	37	4	2	6		64	11
Pine Siskin						2			1		2				1	1	
Pine Warbler				1		2		1	1							1	
Purple Finch		4	1	1		9	1	1	3	7	3	8		3	4	13	19
Red-bellied Woodpecker	38	38	64	31	47	68	43	160	36	122	153	57	45	65	62	164	42
Red-breasted Merganser			505	39							1			2	1		
Red-breasted Nuthatch			15	22		1	2	2	4	2	3	1		3	2	5	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	12	11	22	2	3	59	32	3	8	14	4	3	37	19	5	81	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	3	9	31	15	40	47	3	44	19	73	25	9	10	16	14	40	21
Red-tailed Hawk	19	13	98	23	38	35	15	40	29	37	50	43	21	26	24	55	30
Red-winged Blackbird	51	25	456	2036	1255	5569	14	1500	2066	1207	4213	45	8157	45512	2	750	101
Redhead	5	5	4					12								1	
Ring-billed Gull	4004	15	16312	15063	673	2	6	7	614	14	2	5	1	12510	4021	41	
Ring-necked Duck	97	8	275	1046	2	127		330	6	1251				87	1	690	
Ring-necked Pheasant														29	2		
Rock Pigeon	6	17	24	562	20	51	3	11	143	61	45	104	8	37	49	34	2
Ross' Goose		2	84	1		10		39			3		2	4	3	6	
Rough-legged Hawk			2	1									1	1			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	3		9	2	12	1	31	2	9	3		1	7	2	13	3
Ruddy Duck	16	4	280	966	320				44	57				128	4	4	
Rusty Blackbird			7	276		37		350	51	135	62	10	1	541	7	34	1
Sandhill Crane															17		
Savannah Sparrow		18	10	12		9		14	5	15	11	1	3		1	1	
Sedge Wren													1				
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1		1	4	1	1		1	1	1	1			1	1	3	
Short-eared Owl	2		7			2		3			3		5		1		3
Snow Bunting								1									
Snow Goose	5864	225	109960	107		6016	35	4000		37	3337		2662	40207	891	18000	
Song Sparrow	7	12	73	12	43	52	11	202	21	155	73	20	20	5	40	166	62
Surf Scoter																1	
Swamp Sparrow	14	1	36	7	5	63		142	5	191	27	4	15	9	16	124	14
Tree Swallow								2									
Trumpeter Swan	21							211		2						212	
Tufted Titmouse	27	51	72	42	83	92	86	159	45	165	138	105	54	53	102	249	21
Tundra Swan								2							3	4	
Turkey Vulture	3	310	220	164		200		194	13	75	77	94	31	51	17	139	142
White-breasted Nuthatch	9	34	52	34	10	48	42	68	10	41	63	53	26	14	38	178	17
White-crowned Sparrow	9	6	28	2	49	48		22	13	15	190	13	3	4	4	7	45
White-throated Sparrow	108	72	289	137	52	165	58	590	241	603		118	131	188	236	1500	218
Wild Turkey	22		20	86		15		15	14	32	88	6	1	153		6	45
Wilson's Snipe				17		12					1			21			
Winter Wren			2	5		12		14	1	17	2			6	3	18	2
Wood Duck		1		9		21		20	16	4	4	4	5	1		80	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1	1	7	9	3		11	3	10	2	2		2	3	23	7
Yellow-rumped Warbler				49	3	136		66	51	28	199	101		18	19	81	
TOTAL SPECIES	80	84	106	105	72	91	49	101	89	94	88	83	76	100	93	93	67

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Introduction

Temperatures for winter 2021-2022 were overall average after experiencing a mild December 2021, followed by below normal temperatures during January and February 2022. During December, temperatures remained mild, and were overall slightly above average for prior years. Whereas, during February, colder temperatures across the state led to overall records that were slightly below normal across the state. Far northern Illinois had a notable lack of snowfall during the season, including the Chicago area's latest record for a measurable snowfall on December 28, 2021, over a month later than the average. The season also brought winter thunderstorms, freezing rain and drizzle, and hail to locations in northern Illinois and areas of central Illinois. Snowfall rates across the rest of the state varied during the season.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE, 17 Jan 2022.
Photo by Jake Cvetas.

Rare Bird Highlights

Sightings of rare species were already occurring as the winter 2021-2022 season opened. Illinois' second state record, and the ABA's third area record of **SMALL-BILLED ELAENIA** continued in Waukegan at the beginning of December 2021. This mega-rarity was discovered by Susan Miller-Zelek on November 26, 2021. The South American flycatcher remained present until December 7, providing opportunities for many people across Illinois and from over 20 other states to observe it. The bird was recorded on more than 320 eBird checklists, including recordings of the bird vocalizing. Illinois now has recorded both the first and third sightings of a Small-billed Elaenia in the ABA area. No other state has had more than one observation. The first Illinois Small-billed Elaenia sighting occurred in April 2012 by Ethan, Aaron, and Eric Gyllenhaal at Douglass Park, Chicago. With a total of only five ABA records, the other observations were from Quebec, Canada (2021), Mustang Island, Texas (2021), and the Farallon Islands, California (2022).

Other records of note from the winter 2021-2022 season include multiple sightings of Townsend's Solitaire in three distinct locations across the state, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Lake County that was observed at a home feeder throughout the entire month of December, a Painted Bunting in McHenry County that was seen at a private feeder, two records of Ovenbird in northern and central Illinois, and a King Eider in Grundy County seen in an area with restricted access. Other notable waterfowl include Red-necked Grebe observed at an inland lake in southern Illinois, as well as a Harlequin Duck that overwintered at North Point Marina (Lake County) and was observed during the 2022 IOS Gull Frolic. Also of significance, the American Golden Plover is one of only a small number of winter season observations across the region. This season also saw the irruption of Common and Hoary Redpolls across the state, as can be seen in the feature article of this issue.

Also interesting were certain species that occurred during this season that were observed in prior years or in subsequent years. The Coles County Prairie Falcon, returning since 2010, was first observed just days before the start of the winter season and last being seen just two days after the end of the season. The Will County Great-tailed Grackle was first observed in January 2022 and continued well after the season ended.

Notable records from a very active winter season:

- **Red-necked Grebe**
  - [22 Jan.] (1) Baldwin Lake, Kaskaskia River State FWA_ Randolph (Mark Seiffert & Keith McMullen)
- **King Eider**
  - [23 Dec.] (1) Heidecke Lake_Grundy (Matt Misewicz)
- **Harlequin Duck**
  - [13 Nov.-27 Feb.] (1) North Point Marina_Lake (Richard Hugel, MoB)
- **Prairie Falcon***
  - [2 Nov.-2 Mar.] (1) Coles County (Tyler Funk, MoB*)
- **American Golden-Plover**
  - [26 Feb.] (2) Easter Slough_Pulaski (Mark Seiffert & Keith McMullen)
- **Greater Yellowlegs**
  - [1 Dec.] (3) Crab Orchard NWR_Williamson (Michael Heaney)
- **Spotted Sandpiper**
  - [13 Dec. and 2 Jan.] (1) Carpentersville Dam_Kane (Paula Mitchell, Alan Magerkurth)
- **Dunlin**
  - [2 Dec. and 17 Dec.] (5, 1) Rend Lake_Jefferson (Michael Heaney, Ari and Rebecca Rice)
- **Least Sandpiper**
  - [2 Dec. and 17 Dec.] (3, 15) Rend Lake_Jefferson (Michael Heaney, Ari and Rebecca Rice)
  - [7 Feb. and 9 Feb.] (2) Melvin Price Lock and Dam 26, Alton_Madison (Bill Rowe & Tom Parmenter, Mike Thelen)

- **Long-billed Dowitcher**
  - [1 Dec.] (3) Crab Orchard NWR_Williamson (Michael Heaney)
- **Franklin's Gull**
  - [9 Dec.] (1) Lake Springfield_Sangamon (Trevor Slovick)
  - [13 Jan.-12 Feb.] (1) Wilmington Island Park_Will (Debi Shapiro, MoB*)
  - [26 Feb.] (1) Arsenal Road Pond_Will (Davida Kalina)
- **California Gull**
  - [29 Dec.] (1) Mississippi River_Hancock (Colin Dobson)
  - [17-22 Jan.] (1) Carlyle Lake_Clinton (Dan Kassebaum, Mark Seiffert, and Keith McMullen)
- **Black-legged Kittiwake**
  - [24 Dec.] (1) Gillson Park_Cook (Audrey Carl)
  - [25 Dec.] (1) Gillson Park_Cook (Woody Goss)
  - [15 Jan.] (1) Park No. 566_Cook (Kelly Ballantyne)
- **Forster's Tern**
  - [3 Dec.] (1) Burning Star Mine_Jackson (Mike Heine)
  - [18 Dec.] (1) Rend Lake_Jefferson (Michael Heaney)
- **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**
  - [18 Nov.-2 Jan.] (1) Antioch_Lake (Cheryl Van Duyse, Adam Sell)
- **Rufous Hummingbird**
  - [Sept.-7 Dec.] (1) LeRoy_McLean (Brie Martin)
- **SMALL-BILLED ELAENIA**
  - [26 Nov.-7 Dec.] (1) Waukegan_Lake (Susan Miller-Zelek)
- **Blue-headed Vireo**
  - [4 Jan. and 27 Jan.] (1) Homer Lake FP_Champaign (Elizabeth Jenicek, Aerin Tedesco)
- **Sedge Wren**
  - [12 Dec] (1) Bartel Land and Water Reserve_Marion (Michael Heaney)
  - [12 Jan.] (1) Upper Sangamon River Land and Water Reserve_Piatt (Aerin Tedesco)
  - [27 Jan.] (1) Prairie Ridge SNA_Jasper (Robert Shelby)
- **Marsh Wren**
  - [18 Dec.] (1) Big Marsh_Cook (Carl Giometti)
- **Townsend's Solitaire**
  - [31 Dec.-9 Jan.] (1) Garden of the Gods_Saline (Stephanie Beilke)
  - [6 Jan.-12 Mar.] (1) Moraine Hills SP_McHenry (Chuck Fields)
  - [5-18 Feb.] (1) Hampshire FP_Kane (Jim Shotsberger)
- **Tennessee Warbler**
  - [18 Dec.] (1) Herrick Lake FP_DuPage (Glenn Perricone, Nancy Allured, and Mark Freeburg)
  - [20-21 Dec.] (1) Fox River Trail_Kane (Bob Andrini, Jon Duerr)
- **Cape May Warbler**
  - [13-4 Dec.] (1) River Forest_Cook (Jill Anderson)
  - [1 Jan.] (1) New Lenox_Will (Daniel Peterson)
- **American Redstart**
  - [4 Dec.] (1) Waukegan_Lake (David Svetich)
- **Ovenbird**
  - [10 Nov.-3 Dec.] (1) UIC Campus_Cook (Hazem Alkhan)
  - [18 Jan.] (1) Homer Lake FP_Champaign (Alex Lowe-Massi)

SMALL-BILLED ELAENIA.
Waukegan, Lake Co., 4 Dec 2021.
Photo by Don Blecha.

- **Northern Waterthrush**
  - [30 Dec.] (1) Horner Park_Cook (Joe Cesolini)
- **Painted Bunting**
  - [28 Nov.-2 Dec.] (1) Alden Township_McHenry (Mary Endres)
- **Dickcissel**
  - [3 Jan.] (1) Pana_Christian (Brian Lockwood)
- **Clay-colored Sparrow**
  - [19 Dec.] (1) Grunwald Farms Family FP_Kane (Jason Newton and Jay Sturner)
- **Grasshopper Sparrow**
  - [3 Jan.] (1) Waukegan Beach_Lake (Jenny Vogt)
- **LeConte's Sparrow**
  - [20 Dec.] (1) Eagle Mine_Saline (Travis DeNeal)
  - [5 Feb.] (1) Harrisburg_Saline (Travis and Cathy DeNeal)
  - [19 Feb.] (1) Jasper County State Prairie Chicken Sanctuary_Jasper (Jarod Hitchings)
- **Harris's Sparrow**
  - [2 Dec.] (1) Mascoutin Recreation Area (Emily Walker)
  - [18 Dec., 28 Jan.-25 Feb.] (1) Campbell Rd_Winnebago (Randy Grover, John Longhenry)
- **Yellow-headed Blackbird**
  - [19 Jan.] (1) Des Plaines Conservation Area_Will (Mike Madsen)
- **Great-tailed Grackle**
  - [17 Jan.-20 Apr.] (1) Monee_Will (Doug Stotz)
- **Hoary Redpoll** *(See page 7 for status and distribution during Winter 2021-2022.)*

*MoB indicates sightings by "many observers."

HARLEQUIN DUCK. North Point Marina, Lake Co., 25 Feb 2022. Photo by Matt Zuro.

RED CROSSBILL. Greenwood Cemetery, Winnebago Co., 3 Jan 2021. Photo by John Longhenry.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE. Garden of the Gods RA, Saline Co., 3 Jan 2022. Photo by Colin Dobson.

HARRIS' SPARROW.
NW Winnebago Co., 28 Jan 2022.
Photo by John Longhenry.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.
East Peoria, Woodford Co., 24 Jan 2021.
Photo by Steve Huggins.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.
Lake Co., 29 Dec 2021.
Photo by Adam Sell.

SNOW BUNTINGS.
Malta, DeKalb Co., 17 Jan 2022.
Photo by Heather Mall.

ICELAND GULL (Kumlien's), TOP, AND HERRING GULL.
Stony Island Landfills, Cook Co., 8 Jan 2022.
Photo by Carl Giometti.

Meadowlark

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